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21 February 1962

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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*USSR-Berlin: The USSR is continuing its program of attempted restrictions on Western use of the southern air corridor. The Soviet representative in the Berlin Air Safety Center informed the Allied representatives that three Soviet flights will be made from the Berlin area to Eisenach, at the western entrance of the corridor, on 21 February between 0515 EST and 0730 EST. The transports are to depart the Berlin area at twenty-minute intervals beginning at 0515 EST and fly at 4,000, 6,000 and 4,000 feet respectively. Unlike the southern corridor activity of 20 February, the first two aircraft will not return by the same route to Berlin but will depart the corridor at Eisenach. The third aircraft is to land at the Eisenach airfield and will depart after a five-minute stop. In another departure from their 20 February tactics, the Soviets made no statement regarding the effect of this activity on Western flights.

Preliminary reports indicate that Soviet transport flights were made in the southern air corridor on 20 February as planned. Western aircraft at higher altitudes in the same corridor were not interfered with although a number of Soviet fighters were active in the area. The Soviet corridor flights were carried out by four aircraft which proceeded from the Berlin area to the Eisenach airfield where they stopped for a half hour before returning to home base via the corridor. A fifth aircraft probably flying outside the corridor apparently served as a communications relay between the four aircraft and Soviet controllers. [redacted]

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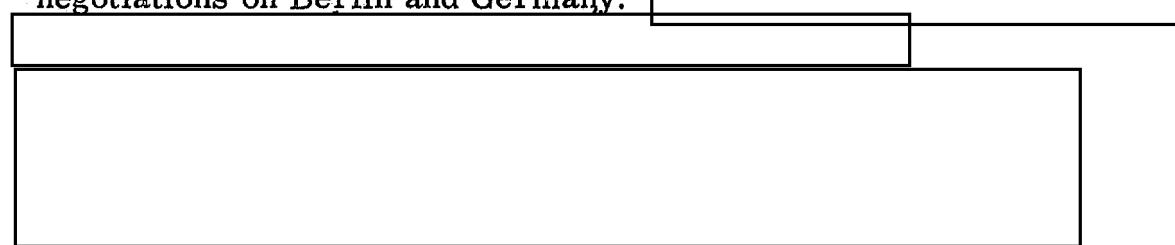
*USSR-Germany: Moscow has again used an article by an authoritative Izvestia commentator to warn the West that the USSR has not abandoned its intention to conclude a separate peace treaty with East Germany and that it will not permit the West to prolong exploratory talks on Berlin as a means of preventing such a treaty. The article denounced alleged Western disregard for East German sovereignty and implied that the East Germans might be obliged to take further steps to protect their "frontiers" and interests. Izvestia blamed the US for the lack of progress in the Gromyko-Thompson talks and said prospects for a "fruitful" exchange of views are "rapidly fading." The Soviet leaders probably hope that hints that they no longer see any advantage in continuing the Moscow talks, coupled with interference in the Berlin air corridors, will exert increasing pressure on the Western governments to move toward formal negotiations on Berlin and Germany at a higher level. They may also believe that the recent proposals by the US, Britain, and France for high-level talks on disarmament--particularly President De Gaulle's suggestion for a four-power forum--provide an opening to press for a definite Western commitment for negotiations on Berlin and Germany.

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